(c) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 kms.

(d) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inacessible Areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

3.3. *Anticipated Income:*

(c) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be $33^1/_3$% of the cost.

(d) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. *Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub-Post Offices:*

(a) *In Rural Areas:*

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

OFC cable connectivity under Jangla exchange in Shimla

†210. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from the local Member of Parliament regarding connection of Nandla, Magwani, Kulgaon, Siroli, Barwouli and Thali under Jangla Telephone Exchange in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh with OFC;

(b) whether Government propose to connect these villages with OFC during the year 2001-2002; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to install sophisticated plant/ independent telephone exchange to improve the communication system of these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) These villages are located under local exchange area of Jangla telephone exchange, which is provided with modern equipment and connected with optical fibre cable. The subscribers in these villages are provided telecom facility from Jangla telecom exchange and the services are satisfactory.

Expansion of communication network in rural areas

211. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals formulated by Government for developing communication network in the rural areas in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and North Eastern Region; and

(b) the details of effective steps taken by Government to strengthen, upgrade and expand communication network in the rural areas of the above State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning to provide telephones on demands in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and North Eastern Region by 2002, subject to availability of funds.

(b) News technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Centre for Development Telematics (C-DOT)-Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA)/Point to Multi Point (PMP) systems have been inducted for the development, upgradation and expansion of telecommunicaiton network in rural areas in the above states. Satellite based telephones will be provided in remote and isolated areas of these states where no other terrestrial technology is feasible, subject to availability of funds.